

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1619
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
REPLACEMENT OF MARR TECHNOLOGY
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to replace with WLL technology in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the new technology would be introduced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SRI YATAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to replace MARR based Village public Telephones (VPTs) with new technology WLL(Wireless on Local Loop) as well as wireline for the rural areas, subject to availability of funds.

(b)&(c) The new Technology (WLL) has already been introduced. Six lakh lines of WLL equipment consisting of 1200 Base Stations, each of 500 lines capacity are being procured. These have been allotted to various circles for providing VPTs & DELs (Direct Exchange lines). Faulty MARR based VPTs falling under the coverage area of the above said equipments are planned to be replaced either by wireline or by WLL. Most of the equipment has been delivered and are under various stages of installation and commissioning and are likely to be commissioned by August 2002.